



July 2022

Newsletter



Welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year, and what a year it has been! Although Covid has continued to have a significant impact on the school, it has been wonderful to get through a whole school year without a lockdown and the dreaded remote learning!

In recent months, it has been wonderful to invite parents/carers and the wider community into school to share the many activities the children have been engaging with. As you will see below, July has been incredibly busy in school and we have a great deal to share with you, so sit back and enjoy!

Heatwave

Just when we thought that we'd seen it all this year, we faced the extreme temperatures at the beginning of this week. The children and staff were fantastic in the way they coped with the heat and I would like to thank Janine Grant, Chelsea Di Mello, and Talvinder and Manjit Khattrra for donating ice lollies to help keep everyone cool.

Miguel's Mexican Adventure

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, KS2 performed their end of term extravaganza, Miguel's Mexican Adventure. We were fortunate enough to be able to use the air conditioned Denver Village Hall and what a difference it made! The singing, acting and dancing were all absolutely fantastic and it was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves. A huge thank you goes out to everyone involved in helping to put the performance on, to Matt Valentine and Denver Village Hall, and in particular to Mr Lawrence for his hard work in writing and directing another fantastic play.

Y6 Leavers' Buffet

Following the Tuesday performance, there was a buffet at school for the Y6 leavers, their parents and invited guests. There was a fantastic spread and we are grateful to all the Y6 parents for providing the food. Thanks also to the Friends for providing and serving the drinks.

Early Childhood Community Fund

We have recently been granted a £2500 grant from the Early Childhood Community Fund to support the Denver Supertots Playgroup we have running with the students from DMA. This grant will be put to good use to help us to improve the resources and activities we can offer the children and parents who attend.

Reverend Nigel Moat

On behalf of the Denver VC Primary School community, I would like to welcome the new Reverend Nigel Moat, who has recently been inducted as Reverend of the Ouse Valley Benefice. We look forward to welcoming Reverend Moat into school and further strengthening our links with St Mary's Church.

Choir Performance

Last Sunday, our school choir were asked to perform at the Denver Fun Day for the second year running. This year they enjoyed a slot in the main arena and they sang a selection of songs from the KS2 production. Thank you to all the choir members who were able to join us and to Mr Lawrence for his hard work with the choir this year.



Welney Wetland Visit

Classes 1 and 2 had a lovely time at Welney Wetland Centre on the 8th July. Braving the hot weather, our intrepid learners tried their hand at pond-dipping and bird watching, as well as finding out about on-going conservation efforts.



Art Exhibition

On Friday 1st July, we held an art exhibition in school. The artwork was fantastic and every child had something on display. It was lovely to see so many people in the school hall and the children were really proud to share their work with their parents/carers. A huge thank you to Carole Reich for her contribution towards the exhibition and to Mr Bonham for working so hard on organising this successful event.



Eaton Vale

Class 4 children had an amazing time at their residential to Eaton Vale from 6th - 8th July. Here is a summary of the visit from Mrs Henden:

Straight after arrival, the staff entertained the children with games. Then it was time to uncamp into our dorms. The children absolutely loved being able to share rooms and sweets, especially on the first night where there was very little sleep because of the excitement. The activities were plentiful and varied: canoeing, low ropes, pedal go-karts Jacob's ladder, teambuilding, Eggbert's Escapades, buggy derby, archery, grass sledges and the cave bus. There was also plenty of down time to enjoy the grounds within the woodland, playing games. It was an excellent adventure: fears were conquered, friendships were deepened and we learnt so much more about each other. The atmosphere was wonderful and the children were a delight to take, earning very positive praise from all of the instructors for their manners and enthusiasm.

Enormous thanks go to Mrs Henden, Mrs Collins, Mrs Williamson and Mr Rackham for taking the children and making it such a positive and memorable experience.



Move Up

Last week, we held our 'Move Up' afternoons to give the children the opportunity to spend some time with their new classes and teachers for September. Our new Reception children had their first experience of Denver School life and on the Friday afternoon, we also welcomed our new Reception parents for the intake meeting. The afternoons went very smoothly and there was excited buzz about the transition to a new year group or class. We are really looking forward to properly welcoming the new reception children and their families to the Denver School community in September.

Farewell to Y6

It is that time again to say a fond farewell to our Y6 children. They have been a fantastic year group and it will be very sad to say goodbye to them. We hope they have many memories of their time with us at Denver and I'm sure we will hear good things about them all in the future. We wish Mia, Nora, Daisy, Jacob, Anaisa, Logan, George, Jake, Jack, Darcy, Olivia, Charlie, Harry, Edward, Megan, Summer, Thomas, Archie and Kaylee all the very best in their new schools and for the future – we will really miss you! Good luck!



Learning French with Students from DMA

Students from DMA came to offer French lessons to both KS2 classes to enrich our French curriculum and their Year 9 learning outside their own classrooms. They entertained the children with games and songs to help them to learn vocabulary relating to body parts. This was good revision of former learning and an opportunity to build upon it in an enjoyable way.



Summer Moving Up Activities

To help to prepare the children for moving up to the next year group, there are some useful English and Maths activities in the 'Parent' tab on our school website. These are completely optional, and are there should children wish to dip in and out of them.

Times Tables Rockstars

Please remember that the children continue to have access to Times Tables Rockstars. We would encourage them to use this resource over the summer holidays: a sound understanding of times table facts is essential in becoming a successful mathematician.

Summer Reading Bingo Challenge

In order to avoid the summer dip in reading, we would very much like all the children to complete the Summer Reading Bingo Challenge over the summer holidays. Certificates and Dojo points will be awarded in September for each child who completes a full house. This challenge is a great way to help the children to keep up with their reading during the long summer holidays; regular reading throughout the summer can really help to maintain literacy levels and make a difference to children's reading levels. Once again, will be creating a reading display in school to celebrate the children's engagement in the challenge, therefore we would be very grateful if you could send in photographs of them completing some of the tasks. The children have already received their bingo sheets – these can also be found under the 'Parent' tab on our school website.

Don't forget that the children can use the books they are reading as part of this year's Summer Reading Challenge 'Gadeteers'. To find out more information about the challenge, please contact your local library or visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries. More information can also be found at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Summer Reading Challenge 2022



Reports

Thank you for the completed parental comment forms sent back to school so far. We really appreciate your comments and feedback.

Volunteers

We are very keen to welcome new volunteers in school in September. We have a number of regular volunteers who come in to school to listen to readers, help on school events and trips etc. and we are always looking to expand our team. If you feel you have some time to spare, please let me know. We would be grateful for any extra support.

Meet the Teacher

We will be organising 'Meet the Teacher' events in the first few weeks of the autumn term to give parents/carers the opportunity to meet our class teachers and learn more about the forthcoming year. More information will be sent out at the beginning of the new term.

Staff News

Mr Sexton's move to Scotland has been delayed and we are pleased that he will be returning to teach Class 2 in the first few weeks of the autumn term whilst we continue the process to appoint a new teacher.

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Loveridge, one of our Teaching Assistants, who has been supporting a Y6 child this year. We are, however, really pleased that she will be returning next year on one her placements as part of her degree course.

Governor News

I would like to thank the Governing Body for their continued support and challenge throughout this academic year. Amanda Dawson is stepping down as chairperson at the end of term and her tremendous support and dedication to the school over the many years she has led the Governing Body must not go without recognition – thank you Amanda, we are truly grateful! Luckily, Amanda will continue as a governor and Carole Reich will be taking up the mantle of chairperson next term.

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Scheme

There is still time to book onto activities through the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun scheme. For more information about available activities near you, please visit:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/bignorfolkholidayfun

Attendance

Our class attendance figures for July are as follows:

Class 1	91.7%
Class 2	93.5%
Class 3	95.2%
Class 4	92.4%

Well done to Class 3 for having the highest attendance for July! 😊

Our overall school attendance from (06/09/21 – 21/07/22) is 94.2%. Here is a breakdown of attendance figures for each class:

Class 1	92.7%
Class 2	92.9%
Class 3	95.0%
Class 4	94.4%

Well done again to Class 3 who have the highest attendance figures for this academic year!
😊

A special well done must also go out to Jack in Class 3 who is the only child in the school with 100% attendance this academic year – well done Jack!

Out of School Hours Communication

Please remember that parent/carers can contact the school urgently during the summer holidays by using the dedicated email address worried@denver.norfolk.sch.uk. If you are worried about something, please do contact the school via this method and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Friends' Update

Denver Fun Day

The tombola and second-hand uniform sales at last Sunday's Denver Fun Day raised an impressive £439.11, a significant increase in the amount raised last year. Thank you to all our families for the generous donations for the tombola on our recent non-school uniform day.

Class Photographs

A huge thank you to the Friends for organising the end of year class photographs. Many orders have been taken and I'm sure that these will prove lovely memories of this school year.

Name Labels

The Friends have partnered up with Stikins to take advantage of their offer of wash and dishwasher proof stick on name labels offer. For every order placed, the school receives 30% commission. Labels can be ordered online at www.stikins.co.uk

Thank You

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all members of the Friends for their fantastic support of the school this year. They have organised many events and activities throughout the year and raised a significant amount of money to benefit the children. We really do appreciate the team giving up their valuable spare time to support us. Well done for a successful year, thank you!

Sports News

Dance Festival

On 5th July, a group of children from KS2 attended the SSP On Tuesday 5th July, our dance club travelled to King's Lynn Corn Exchange to perform in the local dance festival. The event was well attended with many paying guests in the audience. The show was a resounding success. Many thanks to Miss de Vanche and Miss Waters for running the club and preparing the girls.



Fitness Tracker B

On Tuesday 12th July, Gary Hawkins from West Norfolk School Sports Partnership returned to track the progress of KS2 children against their fundamental sports skills: flexibility, coordination, jumping, throwing, stamina and endurance. The children had been assessed earlier in the year and given specific targets and ideas for training that would improve their overall fitness. The weather was not on our side with very high temperatures and humidity and some of the Year 6 children were on transition visits. However, some good progress was made, especially in Class 3. Full results will be given to the school soon which will help us to drive forward our provision next year.



Rounders Festival

On 15th July, Classes 3 and 4 joined together to enjoy a rounders festival. Each of the three teams batted and fielded against each other. In the end White team were the winners with 2 wins, Red team scored one win and Blue team none. All teams were very sporting and it was an enjoyable morning.



School Games Gold Award

We are delighted to have been awarded the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2021/22 academic year! This is an impressive achievement for a small school and we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of physical activity and school sport. Thank you to all children, staff, parents, carers and volunteers for working together to help us to achieve this award. A particular thank you goes out to Mrs Henden for her hard work in promoting PE, sport and the School Games values in school.

Commonwealth Festival

On Thursday 21st July, the entire school community joined together for a festival of sports centred around the forthcoming Commonwealth Games and its themes. We began in the hall with a special assembly. Performance Club opened the festivities with their Mexican dance followed by the whole school singing our anthem for the event, 'Today, Tomorrow and Forever,' written by Mr Lawrence. There then followed a carousel of activities based on sports which were expertly organised, run and scored by Class 4 as Young Leaders. These activities were: Boccia, Tri-golf dominoes, tennis, non-stop cricket, Golden Mile and football. We were delighted to invite Mayor Councillor Charlie Pyatt and Mayoress Julie Pyatt for the end of event assembly. The mayor presented certificates to our Young Leaders and the trophy to the team which had scored the most points. Congratulations to Group 6! It was a very successful morning and we are very grateful to all of the staff and children who supported the festival, and to Mrs Henden for her hard work in organising it.



And finally...

I would like to conclude this newsletter by thanking everyone in the school community (children, parents, staff, governors and the Friends) for the tremendous support the school has received this year. I am certainly proud of being part of such a lovely school environment.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and a relaxing break! I look forward to welcoming you all back in September. Take care and stay safe.

With my very best wishes

Louise Jones

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2022/2023

Autumn Term

September 2022	6 th	Tue	Children return to school
	24 th – 28 th		School closed for half term
October 2022	31 st	Mon	Children return to school
November 2022			
December 2022	16 th	Fri	Last day of autumn term

Spring Term

January 2023	4 th	Wed	Children return to school
	13 th -17 th		School closed for half term
February 2023	20 th	Mon	Children return to school
March 2023	31 st	Fri	Last day of spring term
April 2023	18 th	Tue	Children return to school

Summer Term

	1 st	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
May 2023	29 th - 2 nd June		School closed for half term
June 2023	5 th	Mon	Children return to school
July 2023	21 st	Fri	Last day of summer term